

Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 367
An Act Concerning Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products
March 13, 2022

Dear Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and other esteemed members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Kristin Reese, and I am a pediatrician in New Haven, CT. I am a resident physician, and care for children in the primary care clinic, hospital, emergency room, and intensive care unit.

I am writing in **SUPPORT of S.B. 367**, An Act Concerning Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products.

E-Cigarettes and vaping products contain harmful chemicals and are unhealthy for developing lungs. The nicotine in e-cigarettes is addictive, and youth who use e-cigarettes are more likely to smoke traditional cigarettes in the future. In reality, many of the adolescent patients I care for in the primary care clinic have no idea that the vaping products they use contain nicotine.

E-Cigarettes have been marketed to young adults and adolescents through the use of candy and fruit flavors. From 2017 to 2019, e-cigarette use more than doubled among high school students (from 11.7% to 27.5%) and tripled among middle school students (from 3.3% to 10.5%), according to the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey. Flavored e-cigarettes have driven the e-cigarette epidemic – 97% of youth e-cigarette users report using a flavored product in the past month and 70% cite flavors as a reason for their use.

In addition, e-cigarettes are touted by some users as a “safer” alternative to smoking, and as a way to quit smoking cigarettes. However, no rigorous scientific studies have shown that they are safe for use. The FDA has not approved e-cigarettes as a quit smoking aid, and more research is needed on whether e-cigarettes are effective for quitting smoking.

Preventative medicine is at the heart of pediatrics, and one of the reasons I love my job. We must do a better job protecting youth from the harmful effects of e-cigarettes and vaping. We must do a better job preventing youth from using these harmful products in the first place, and removing flavors is a great first step. Significant gaps remain in e-cigarette regulation, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Sincerely,
Kristin Reese, MD